

GEOMETRIC TRACK AND TRACK/VEHICLE ANALYZERS AND METHODS FOR CONTROLLING RAILROAD SYSTEMS

Abstract of the Disclosure

Track and track/vehicle analyzers for determining geometric parameters of tracks, determining the relation of tracks to vehicles and trains, analyzing the parameters in real-time, and communicating corrective measures to various control mechanisms are provided. In one embodiment, the track analyzer includes a track detector and a computing device. In another embodiment, the track/vehicle analyzer includes a track detector, a vehicle detector, and a computing device. In other embodiments, the track/vehicle detector also includes a communications device for communicating with locomotive control computers in lead units, locomotive control computers in helper units, and a centralized control office. Additionally, methods for determining and communicating optimized control, lubrication, and steering strategies are provided. The analyzers improve operational safety and overall efficiency, including fuel efficiency, vehicle wheel wear, and track wear, in railroad systems.

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